

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 CU-04

DPW-01 RSR-01 /173 W
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R 261015 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2596
INFO AMMBASSY SAIGON 3903
USDEL PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3531

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JA, VS
SUBJ: JAPAN AND PRG

SUMMARY: GOJ HAS MOVED QUICKLY BUT INEPTLY TO EXPLAIN AWAY
JUSTICE MINISTER TANAKA' S COMMENT IN DIET MARCH 24 THAT
HE (TANAKA) WOULD BE WILLING GRANT ENTRY PERMITS TO PRG
REPRESENTATIVES. GOJ POLICY OF DENYING ENTRY PERMITS TO PRG-
AFFILIATED VIETNAMESE REMAINS UNCHANGED. ON AFTERNOON OF MARCH 24,
GOJ DENIED ENTRY PERMITS TO TWO YOUTHS REPRESENTING PRG AFFILIATED
YOUTH ORGANIZATION. END SUMMARY

1. AT UPPER HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE MARCH 24, JSP DIETMAN
HIDEO DEN SAID THAT NGUYEN VAN THIEN DEPUTY PRG DELEGATE TO
PARIS PEACE TALKS, HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VISITING JAPAN
AND ASKED WHETHER GOJ WOULD PERMIT HIGH LEVEL PRG OFFICIALS TO
VISIT JAPAN FOR DISCUSSION OF POST- WAR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO
VIETNAM. IN RESPONSE JUSTICE MINISTER ISAJI TANAKA REPLIED
THAT QTE SHOULD SUCH PERSON WISH TO COME FOR THAT PURPOSE,
I WOULD BE WILLING TO APPROVE IT (I. E. ENTRY INTO JAPAN)
UNQTE.
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2. AT PRESS CONFERENCE SAME DAY, CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY NIKAIIDO, RECOGNIZING THAT TANAKA'S RESPONSE WAS NOT CONSISTENT WITH GOJ POLICY OF DENYING ENTRY TO PRG REPRESENTATIVES, EXPLAINED IT AWAY AS QTE SLIP- OF- THE- TONGUE UNQTE. NIKAIIDO RATHER LAMELY TOLD PRESS THAT JUSTICE MINISTER TANAKA HAD MISTAKENLY THOUGHT QUESTION CONCERNED ENTRY OF GVN REPRESENTATIVES. LATER IN DAY, REPORTERS QUESTIONED TANAKA ABOUT HIS RESPONSE IN DIET AND NIKAIIDO'S EXPLANATION THEREOF. TANAKA TOLD REPORTERS THAT, NIKAIIDO'S EXPLANATION NOTWITHSTANDING, HE HAD CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT QUESTION CONCERNED ENTRY OF PRG REPRESENTATIVES, NOT GVN REPRESENTATIVES. HOWEVER, TANAKA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NIKAIIDO WAS CORRECT IN SAYING HE (TANAKA) HAD MADE SLIP- OF- THE- TONGUE, BECAUSE HE (TANAKA) HAD FAILED TO STATE CONDITION UNDER WHICH HE WOULD BE WILLING ALLOW ENTRY OF PRG REPRESENTATIVES. TANAKA SAID CONDITION WAS THAT GVN FIRST EXPRESS ITS UNDERSTANDING OF GOJ INTENTION TO ADMIT PRG REPS. TANAKA ADDED THAT IF QUESTIONED FURTHER IN DIET, HE WOULD SINCERELY APOLOGIZE FOR HAVING MADE SLIP- OF- THE- TONGUE.

3. WEEKEND TOKYO PAPERS REPORTED THAT JSP, NOTING DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN TANAKA'S AND NIKAIIDO'S EXPLANATIONS, WAS CONSIDERING PRESSING GOJ FOR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF ITS POSITION IN DIET. MEDIA REPORTS INDICATED THAT DIET DELIBERATIONS WERE DELAYED MORNING MARCH 26 WHILE SOLUTION SOUGHT BEHIND SCENES. MEDIA HAS REPORTED THAT THIS MOST RECENT DIET INCIDENT HAS NOW BEEN RESOLVED THROUGH DEVICE OF HAVING STATEMENT ISSUED IN NIKAIIDO'S NAME READ WHEN DIET COMMITTEES RESUMED HEARINGS ON AFTERNOON MARCH 26. THIS STATEMENT MERELY SAID GOJ DID NOT INTEND TO FORMALLY RETRACT TANAKA'S MARCH 24 REMARKS.

4. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF MARCH 26, FONOFF FIRST SEA DIV (SATO) CONFIRMED THAT ON AFTERNOON OF MARCH 24, GOJ HAD DENIED E TRY PERMITS FOR TWO MINOR REPRESENTATIVES OF PRG. THREE NORTH VIETNAMESE YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES AND TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF PRG'S SOUTH VIETNAMESE YOUTH UNION FOR LIBERATION HAD BEEN INVITED TO JAPAN BY JCP AFFILIATED DEMOCRATIC YOUTH LEAGUE (MINSEIDO) TO RAISE MONEY FOR HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION. IN KEEPING WITH CURRENT POLICY, GOJ HAD GRANTED ENTRY PERMITS TO THREE FROM NORTH VIETNAM

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AND DENIED ENTRY PERMITS TO TWO AFFILIATED WITH PRG.
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